(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) for development and growth of food processing sector, has developed a scheme for providing financial assistance for establishment of Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite backward and forward linkages. The scheme is project oriented. The locations of the Mega Food Parks have to be selected on demand-driven cluster based approach with delineated supply chain and well supported by pre-feasibility studies.

The Scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and up to 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crores or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, for all implementing agencies including private sector. The scheme provides for establishment of 30 Mega Food Parks with MFPI financial assistance of Rs. 1500 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The ownership and management of the Mega Food Park would vest with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in which organized retailers, processors, service providers, farmers etc. may be the equity holders or there may be an anchor investor along with its ancillaries, associated companies and other stakeholders. The government agencies may also be shareholders in SPV upto a maximum of 49%.

The Mega Food Park scheme is under finalization and upon approval and notification of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited and investors identified.

Grants for development of food processing sector

2793. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to grant Rs. 10 crore for promotion of food processing sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to launch a comprehensive cold chain infrastructure scheme, with a view to set up of cold storages at different places in the country, under this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the cold storage facilities that are proposed to be created in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission

has made an allocation of Rs. 4031 crores for implementation of various Plan schemes for the development of food processing industries in the Eleventh Plan. These schemes cover providing financial assistance to entrepreneurs for development of infrastructure such as Mega Food Parks, establishment of cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain, schemes for setting up of food testing labs, implementation of quality systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, promotion of research and development, capacity building and human resource development and other promotional activities. Under the Infrastructure Development Scheme, it is envisaged to give a grant of upto Rs. 10 crores for the Cold Chain.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has developed a comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for Eleventh Plan for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels — farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/ aggregation centres and Strategic Distribution Centres. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. The scheme is project oriented and not State-specific.

Assistance for food processing units

2794. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under which assistance is given to entrepreneurs to set up food processing units in various parts of the country; and

(b) the details of the food processing units which have been opened in Himachal Pradesh, with the Central assistance, under these schemes, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of existing fruit and vegetables processing units is allowed. The Government of India has also launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for holistic development of Horticulture in the country. In addition, it is proposed to implement a Scheme for Infrastructure Development during the Eleventh Plan under which assistance will be provided for setting up of food processing units through Mega Food Parks.

(b) MFPI has provided financial assistance for setting up food processing units of fruits and vegetables such as mushroom, jam and pickles, hops, fruit juice, dehydrated fruits and vegetables processing; dairy processing; consumer items such as honey processing, bakery products such as bread, biscuits manufacturing in various districts of Himachal Pradesh. A total of 37 units have been set up with financial assistance from MFPI. This includes seven